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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADANA 000193

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 21, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 21, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

BOLGE: CHP (Republican People's Party) Adana provincial party administration and 28 provincial delegates vowed to extend support for the CHP national leader Deniz Baykal during CHP's October 19-20 Congress to be held in Ankara.

12. HURRIYET / EVRENSEL: A bomb went off yesterday in one of the ladies' restrooms on the third floor of the Court Hall in the Batman province during the lunchtime. The walls of the ladies' restroom were demolished as a result of the blast. No casualties were reported following the incident. Security Directorate of Batman has started an investigation to probe the blast.

13. SABAH (GUNEY) / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / BOLGE: A bomb attack was carried out on AKP Osmaniye Mayor's father's house in Osmaniye. No casualties were reported, but material damage was reported following the incident.

14. OZGUR GUNDEM: A bomb that exploded in front of a restaurant in Hakkari's Yuksekova district at 4 a.m. caused no casualties, but material damage was done to the restaurant and nearly 20 businesses in the area nearby. The owner of the restaurant reportedly has competed as a DEHAP candidate for the mayor's office in the Yuksekova district during the last local election.

15. BOLGE: AKP (Justice and Development Party) provincial chairperson Abdullah Dogru called on everybody in Adana to contribute to the campaign initiated by the Governor's Office for raising money to send relief to the earthquake victims in Pakistan.

16. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA: A 3.4-magnitude earthquake shook Mersin yesterday.

17. EVRENSEL: A clash broke out during the ongoing military operation in Tunceli. Reportedly, one PKK terrorist was killed and many soldiers were wounded. Aircraft and helicopters are reportedly providing assistance from the air for ground operations.

18. EVRENSEL: Ankara's 11th Heavy Penalty court overturned the appeal of the DEHAP National Chairperson and seven DEHAP senior members to annul the decision banning these DEHAP members from going abroad. DEHAP members are obliged to sign their names every week at the security directorates' office of the respective provinces they are in (see press summary 08/25 and 08/26). This week has become the eighth week running that they signed their names. DEHAP members filed a case with the European Court of Human Rights following the overturning by the Ankara Court.

19. ZAMAN / EVRENSEL/ OZGUR GUNDEM: Naci Aslan, CHP deputy for Agri, has resigned from his party. Aslan is expected to join the AKP ranks.

110. EVRENSEL: Gaziantep's Directorate for Cultural Affairs announced that, in the first nine months of this year, 24,863 people visited Gaziantep's Archaeological Museum, which exhibited Zeugma mosaics as well.

111. OZGUR GUNDEM: Tension has escalated in the central Anatolian province Eskisehir, because police officers accused of killing Ahmet and Ugur Kaymaz, will be tried in Eskisehir on November 24. The committee, which was set up to monitor the trial process, had meetings with the Governor of Eskisehir and Head of the Eskisehir Security Director. The Security Director reportedly said that the court will allow only 100 people, comprised of the attorneys, the monitoring committees, the NGOs and the representatives of the political parties, into the courtroom. The Security Director further guaranteed that the officers would not allow outsiders into the city. Moreover, nobody would be allowed near the Court Hall on the day of the trial. According to the daily, the ultranationalists have started to provoke the people in the province. Ayhan Tepe, DEHAP Eskisehir Provincial Chairperson, alleged that, following their meeting with the Governor and the Security Director, the Governor made contradictory statements to other people. The Governor allegedly said that the authorities did not have the

right to prevent people from watching the trial. This, according to Tepe, contradicts his statement that, "nobody would be allowed in the surroundings of the Court Hall on the day of the trial."

112. OZGUR GUNDEM / ZAMAN: Turkish Union of Bar Associations members will go to Van today to protest the words of the Van Prosecutor Kemal Kacan, who said that he did not trust the Bar Association attorneys, because half of their members were also supporters of the PKK. (see press summary 10/18)

113. OZGUR GUNDEM: Prof. Gencay Gursoy, the spokesperson of the Intelligentsia Initiative; Celal Dogan, Gaziantep's former mayor; and Mehmet Altan, an author, will discuss in a panel held by the Diyarbakir Bar Association, "the Kurdish issue on the path to the EU" on October 22 at the conference hall of the Diyarbakir Municipality.

114. ZAMAN: Police officer Hakan Acil, who was allegedly kidnapped by the PKK on a road between Sirnak's Idil district and Mardin's Midyat district (see press summary 10/11 and 10/12) on October 9, has not been found yet.

115. ZAMAN: Snowfall began one month earlier than normal in parts of the eastern Turkey.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

SABAH (GUNEY) / BOLGE: During a seminar called "Accession Negotiations Process with the EU", which was held by the joint efforts of the Economic Development Association (EDA) and Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACC) in Adana, an EDA Executive Board member said that the negotiations framework agreement was not an ideal document that resolved all the concerns (of the parties). Saban Bas, Chairperson of the ACC, said that a huge step was taken in the path to Turkey's full membership, but at the same time, a new and a challenging process has begun for Turkey. Mehmet Demir, Adana Deputy Governor; Aytac Durak, Adana Mayor; Walter Scott Reid, US Consul in Adana; and Saban Bas, Chairperson of the Adana Chamber of Commerce, participated in the seminar.

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